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FREE EAST TIMOR JAPAN COALITION

June 30, 1988

Your Excellency,

We, a coalition of Japanese citizens' groups are writing today to express our concern over recent press reports that Indonesia is actively lobbying for the chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement. We ask your government to join with other NAM members to reject the Indonesian chairmanship bid.

As you are aware, Indonesia, once a staunch champion of the principle of self-determination, now illegally occupies the territories of West Irian and East Timor. Indonesia's flagrant violation of the rights of the people of West Irian and East Timor, including the right to self-determination, makes Indonesia unfit, we believe, to hold the chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We acknowledge, with deep respect, the principled stance which the Non-Aligned Movement has taken in the past in regard to the Suharto government's bid for the Movement chairmanship. It is our belief that the Movement, by maintaining this stand, is in a unique position to impress the Suharto government with the importance of seeking a non-military solution to the West Irian and East Timor issues, a solution that respects the rights of these peoples to self-determination

Particularly in the case of East Timor, the NAM stance is extremely important at this time. As you know, negotiations between "the interested parties" to the East Timor conflict that have been held under UN auspices (in accordance with UNGA resolution 37/30), negotiations in which Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was the principal Indonesian negotiator, have failed because Indonesia did not agree to East Timorese participation. It is important, we feel, for Non-Aligned Movement friends of Indonesia and/or East Timor to actively urge Indonesia to meet with representatives of the East Timor resistance. In the case fo the conflict in Kampuchea, Indonesia itself launched an active diplomatic campaign--the so-called "cocktail party diplomacy"--for the very purpose of bringing the conflicting sides together.

東チモールに自由を / 全国協議会

普通寺東チモールと連帯する会 〒765 善通寺市文京町3丁目2-1 四国学院大学宗教部新井洋一郎気付
東チモールの独立に連帯する会 〒606 京都市左京区吉田下阿達町9 きょうと・市民のネットワーク内
仙台東チモール会 〒980-01 仙台市 番町1丁目仙台中郵便局私書箱569号
東チモールの声を聞く会 〒700 岡山市下伊福1丁目2-28 松尾光芳方
東京東チモール協会 〒180 武蔵野市中町1丁目2-9-302
名古屋YWCA東チモールを考える会 〒460 名古屋市中区新栄町2-3
呉YWCA東チモール問題を考える会 〒737 呉市幸町3-1

It is our fervent hope that the NAM ministerial meeting in Cyprus--through rejecting Indonesia's bid for the chairmanship, on the one hand, and through "friendly diplomacy" on the other--will result in convincing the Suharto government to begin to seek settlements that would lead to its withdrawal from East Timor and West Irian. Surely this would be in the ultimate best interests of Indonesia itself.

Respectfully yours,

(Sendai)

(Tokyo)

(Nagoya)

(Osaka)

(Zentsuji)

(Okayama)

(Kure)